Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

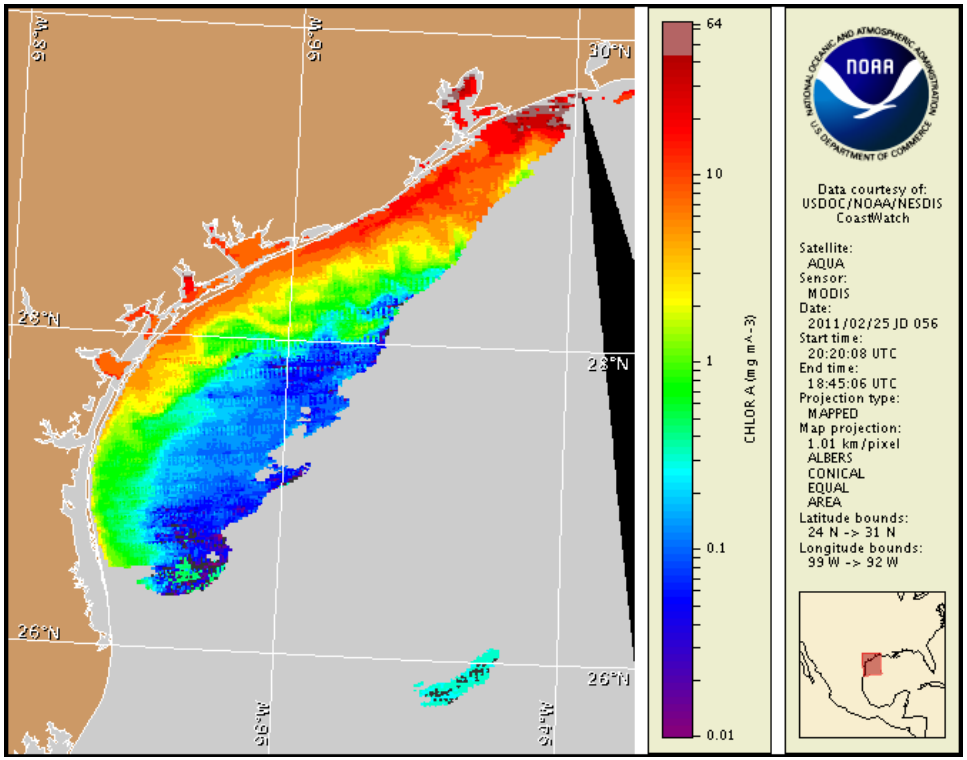
28 February 2011

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: February 22, 2011



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from February 18 to 23 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Please note the following restrictions on all SeaWiFS imagery derived from CoastWatch.

1. Data are restricted to civil marine applications only; i.e. federal, state, and local government use/distribution is permitted.
2. Image products may be published in newspapers. Any other publishing arrangements must receive GeoEye approval via the CoastWatch Program.

Conditions Report

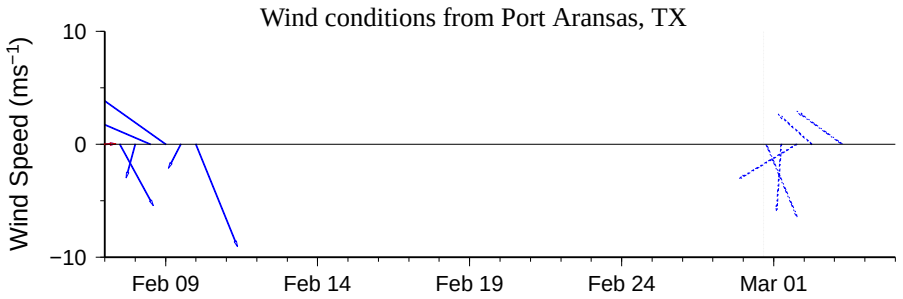
There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom at the coast in Texas. No impacts are expected alongshore Texas today through Sunday, March 6.

Analysis

There is currently no indication of a harmful algal bloom along the coast of Texas. Recent imagery is cloudy along the coast, limiting analysis. Elevated to significant levels of chlorophyll (3 to >20 μg/L) are visible stretching along- and offshore from Sabine Pass to Cavalle Pass, with the highest levels located along- and offshore from Sabine Pass to Bolivar Roads Pass (2/25, shown left). No recent samples are available; however, this region will continue to be monitored. Elevated chlorophyll (2-10 μg/L) is also visible along the Texas coastline stretching along- and offshore south of Cavalle Pass to South Padre Island. Imagery south of Port Mansfield Channel is obscured by clouds, limiting analysis. Much of the elevated chlorophyll at the coast is likely due to the resuspension of benthic chlorophyll and sediments and not related to a harmful algal bloom.

Forecast models indicate a maximum transport of 40km south along the coast from Port Aransas from February 25 to March 3.

Derner, Kavanaugh

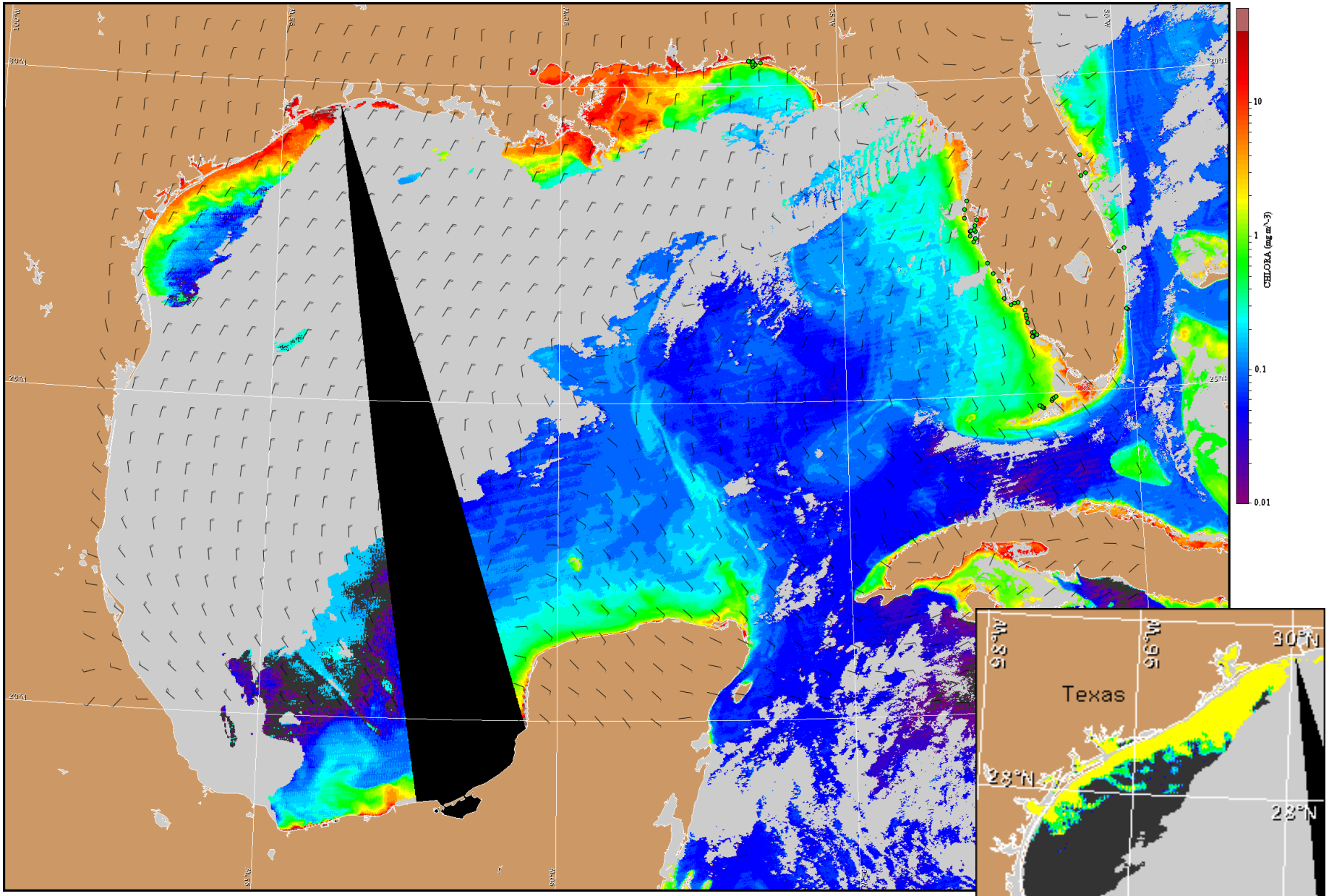


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

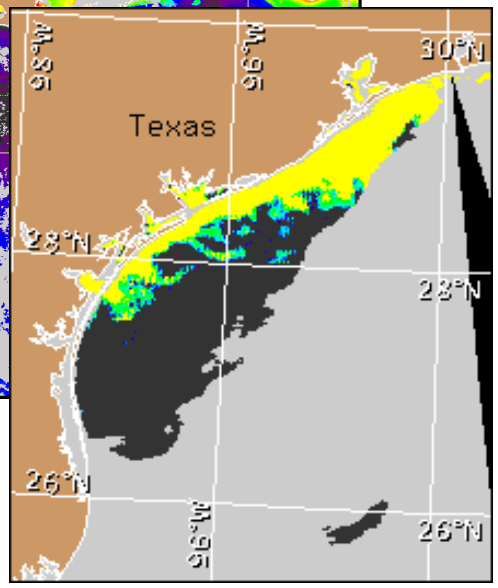
North winds (15-25kn, 8-13m/s) today. Northeast wind (15-20kn, 8-10m/s) Tuesday, becoming east (5-10kn, 3-5m/s) Tuesday night through Wednesday. Southeast wind (10-15kn, 5-8m/s) Wednesday afternoon through Thursday. South wind (5-15kn, 3-8m/s) Friday.

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive: http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for March 1, 2011 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from February 18 to 23 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).